



New generation debate new values

By Alan Stevenson, Director of Curriculum and Activities

The year 1997 has been a year of the challenges presented by the end of the twentieth century. There is a general recognition of the need to move away from the old ways. However, the world is also more influenced by new and more efficient technologies. These changes have presented both an opportunity for us to take advantage of the new opportunities and challenges.

A global citizenship is becoming an increasingly important topic and interest. This is one of the main topics of our curriculum. We believe that our students will grow up to be part of the world community.

There is also a growing awareness of the environment and its impact on our lives. This is another area of our curriculum. We believe that our students will grow up to be part of the world community.

Our Mongolian campers?

The following extract is the story of our recent trip to Mongolia.

It was a long time ago now, but I still remember the excitement of being chosen to go on the trip to Mongolia. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience a different culture and way of life. We were given a detailed briefing about what to expect and how to behave. We were told to be respectful of the local customs and traditions. We were also given a list of things to bring, such as warm clothes, a good camera, and a sense of adventure. We were all very excited and looking forward to the trip.

We arrived in Mongolia and were greeted by the local people.

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- 2. Our蒙古 campers?



- 3. How does the Mongolian culture affect our daily lives?
- 4. What are the traditional Mongolian customs?
- 5. How do we plan to make the most of our trip?



How does the Mongolian culture affect our daily lives?
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(Continued on page 1)

News in a flash

Tragedy has struck the Eastern steppe gazelles. A survey conducted by UNDP's Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods Options in the Grasslands of Eastern Mongolia Project in November has discovered between 80 and 90 per cent of the 1998 Gazelle calves have died. There were also low numbers of yearlings (1997 calves) in the population and correspondingly high numbers of dead yearlings among the carcasses. The cause has been traced to an outbreak of "foot rot" or necrovateris, a bacterial disease resulting from heavy rainfall in July and August. The disease causes a gangrene-like condition that produces toxins and prevents the animals from walking and feeding. The virtual loss of all the 1997 and 1998 calves will have an impact on the structure of the gazelle population for years to come. Some of the adults were in poor condition in November, even before the stresses of the rot and pregnancy, and it can be expected that mortality will be higher than normal over the winter. The Mongolian government has decided not to issue permits for commercial hunting of gazelle this winter.

UNDP is helping journalists to help when disaster strikes. As of January 1, 1999 the Mongolian government divested itself of all of its media interests under a new law. This has profound implications for the dissemination of information in Mongolia, especially during a crisis. In preparation for this, UNDP's Support to Community-based Rehabilitation of Forest Areas and Disaster Management Project has prepared a disaster management handbook for journalists. The pocket-size booklet was prepared by the State Emergency Commission and gives journalists directions on what to do and who to contact in case of a disaster. The idea first emerged from a disaster roundtable meeting between the State Emergency Commission and local journalists on October 8. **Journalists interested in getting a copy of the booklet should drop by the UN Info Shop in Ulaanbaatar or phone 325911.**

The new year means it's time to clean the house and make - or break - new year's resolutions. Around the world UN workers know the new year is report-writing time. A necessary task it may be, it can also be a frustrating experience - even for veterans. On the plus side it is an opportunity to dust off the old versions of our handy project guide book (Mongolian and English), and take a peek inside. New for 1999, The Guide has the latest information on active UNDP projects and is essential information for anybody interested in development in Mongolia. Copies can be picked up at the UN Info Shop.

Big support for rights in Big Book

"To be denied human rights is far harder than being born disabled." Just one of many comments written by Mongolians in Amnesty International's Big Book. Amnesty International is a global human rights NGO with branches in most countries. Signatures and comments were collected from across Mongolia as part of a global campaign and Mongolians were able to meet the target of one per cent of the population (25,000 signatures).

The Big Book was presented to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in Paris on December 10th, World Human Rights Day. On that same day Mongolia signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Human Rights with the UN - an affirmation by both sides that they remain committed to the goals of the Universal Charter on Human Rights.

Delegates for the Hague Forum from Mongolia:

Mr. Sodov Sonin
Minister for Health and Social Welfare

Ms.Sanjaasuren Oyun
Member of Parliament

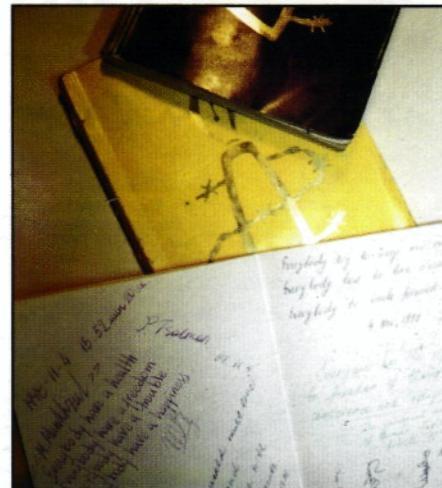
Mr. Sanjbegz Tumur-Ochir
Member of Parliament

Mr.Jamiyan Batsuuri
National Center for Anthropology

Ms. J. Chanchaldulam
Officer, Women for Social Progress

Ms. Norjinlkham Mongolmaa
Chief, International Department, MHSW

Mr.Gombo Zoljargal
Journalist, Mongol TV



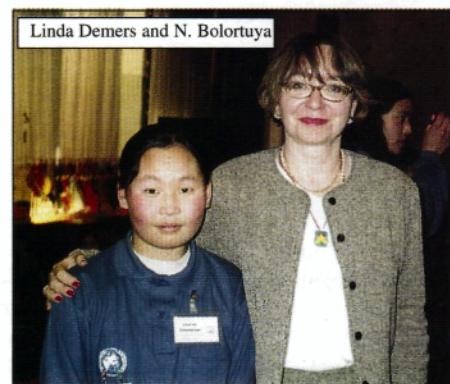
The books are on display at the UN Info Shop in Ulaanbaatar before being passed on to New York.

The Guide (above) is available in Mongolian and English from the UN Info Shop.

UN Population Fund gets new boss

The Mongolia office of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) now has its first Representative to the country. Canadian Linda Demers started work on December 15 and takes over from the Beijing-based office that used to oversee Mongolia.

Hailing from Montreal, she is a demographer by training, with a BA in Anthropology. In 1979, she worked in Burkina Faso as a Chief Technical Adviser on a UNFPA population and development project. She went back to Canada and worked for four years in the Secretary of State responsible for policy and research programmes on youth, ethnic/linguistic minorities, family and disabled people. She returned to international development as the population advisor in the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), where she was responsible for all population and development issues and activities in CIDA. Wanting to be in



the field, Ms. Demers joined UNFPA in 1992 and was UNFPA Representative in Vietnam and in Ethiopia. Ms. Demers is extremely happy to be the first full-fledged UNFPA Representative in Mongolia.

Women scientists prove potency of Mongolian beverage



Horse mare's milk, drunk by Mongolians for centuries, has been proven by a team of women scientists to be as healthy as many Mongolians believe. In a UNDP-funded project, women scientists from Mongolia, China and South Korea are exploring new ways to generate income through science. A joint Mongolian/Korean team confirmed the national wisdom of using mare's milk for treating stomach and intestine inflammations, as well as tuberculosis, liver diseases and cancer. They say the frothy white milk is packed with nutrients and

vitamins.

The UNDP-funded Sub-regional Project of Northeast Asian Countries on Gender Equality through Science and Technology started last March. A team of Mongolian women scientists in the project made the discovery when they explored the biochemical composition and immunological activity of Mongolian mare's milk.

Mongolians have used mare's milk as part of the traditional diet for centuries. During holidays many urban Mongolians drop in on their rural relatives for a drink of the elixir, saying it will help them to alleviate stress and to heal some chronic diseases. There are even cases of foreign tourists believing mare's milk is the elixir of life, and will make them younger.

The researchers confirmed that the drying process of mare's milk does not adversely affect its nutritional value, including proteins, lipids, vitamins, lactose and fatty acids. The mare's milk was processed using spray drying

News in a flash

As Mongolia entered the transition period in the early 1990s, development assistance steadily increased to top US \$1.48 billion by 1997. The plethora of donor agencies and diplomatic missions in Mongolia has led to concerns over the government's ability to control donor aid, which now reaches 20 per cent of GDP. The Government of Mongolia and UNDP signed a US \$300,000 project at the beginning of December to improve aid coordination. The Support to Coordination and Management of External Development Resources Project will do the following: target government staff to assist with the articulation of a national development strategy and how it relates to ODA policy; improve capacity to screen and consolidate requests for assistance; design appropriate projects/programmes to monitor performance and develop human and institutional capacities to understand policies and procedures of ODA donors and to provide quality input to donor partners.

and lyophilise methods. The research is making it possible to better preserve mare's milk in the off-season.

The main goal of the project is to find new ways to generate income for poor women. In the case of mare's milk, rural women will be able to turn to local manufacturers who can preserve the milk. The researchers say the South Koreans expressed keen interest in producing dry diet from mare's milk.

Up Close and Personal

Mr. B. Khuldorj is the National Project Coordinator for the Mongolian Action Programme for the 21st century.

Your project has a high profile. How long have you been working for UNDP?

I've been working for the project since 1997, and for UNDP since the 1990s. I was working as an Aid Coordinator, coordinating projects and foreign aid.

How do you see Mongolia in the 21st century? What will lead the country's development?

The fate of development in Mongolia depends on us. As I see it things are optimistic. The programme looks at all fields till 2020 – economy, industry, energy, meteorology etc. That is not the work of only the programme team. It is representative of a large group – from statesmen to the common people will give their opinions.

Since you are working on a project focused



on the future, I'd like to ask about your future. I think you have a family. What about your children's future?

Perhaps I am a passionate optimist. I also believe their future will be bright. I have four great boys. They all know English and Russian and one learns Japanese and one German. So they have access to understanding others and can cooperate with others, which are the principles of sustainable development. I believe there are no borders to understanding and cooperation.

When are you going to be a grandfather?

Not within this century. I think I'll be very busy. I have much in my mind to do - I am a father of four. MAP 21 keeps me busy. Every morning when I wake up I count how many days are left till the coming century. Now we have 350 days (January 15).

Do you often face troubles in your work?

Overcoming adversities is a natural human trait. If there is trouble, work must go on. If you are overcoming you are achieving the goal. Now we have the problem of building national capacity, which will take long.

What do you do in your leisure time?

I very seldom have it. I like wrestling, boxing and sometimes play chess. The best I like is travelling in the nature. I like to go everywhere in Mongolia. Every place has its special features. Also I enjoy being with my family and talking. Unfortunately it is the rarest thing which happens. When I come home late in the evening my sons are already in bed and on the weekend I work.

A young country experiments with new-found freedoms

Continued from page 1

These rapid changes have been dizzying for many older Mongolians, who must come to terms with the changing mentality of the population, 33 per cent of whom are between the ages of 16-32. In Ulaanbaatar, change is a part of everyday life. New restaurants and bars are cropping up on every corner. Foreign influences in music, food and consumer goods are growing at a rapid pace. Mongolians have even garnered the attention of the foreign press, including a November article in the New York Times Magazine, calling the country the youngest in the world.

On an average Friday night at the Top Ten Disco, government and UN outreach workers distribute condoms donated by the AIDS Care Centre and a youth calendar, *What's Up?*. Young women decked in mini skirts and knee high leather boots make their way into the enormous warehouse-like club together with young men in brightly coloured, silk button downs. "Calendars in their back pockets and condoms in their front pockets," commented Enkhsogt the government official from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare as he handed out the materials.

They are targeting the thriving club scene, the vanguard of Mongolia's sexual revolution.

Next stop was the Hard Rock, a smaller club in the center of the city known for its trendy crowd and cool ambiance. The condoms and calendars floated amidst the boy bands, striptease acts and copious alcohol consumption. One table of young women, sipping beer and watching the scene on the dance floor giggled when they realized what had been handed to them. They detached the condoms from the calendars and slipped them into their purses. Then one of them leaned over to ask for "another one" for her boyfriend and thank the distributors for doing such important work.

Only in the last few years have Mongolian youth had access to different methods of birth control and up to date information about sexuality and healthy lifestyles. The insurgence of condom campaigns and reading materials like the UN Population Fund's (UNFPA) "Love" magazine, have been met with criticism.

Dr. Damien Wolffahrt, Chief Technical Advisor with UNFPA's Reproductive Health Project explained that "There will always be people who believe such materials promote sexual activity among youth. However, international research in several countries and cultures has consistently shown that sexuality education and family life education in schools



actually delays the onset of sexual activity, reduces the number of STDs and reduces the number of unwanted pregnancies."

The debate over shifting values and changing lifestyles had a public airing at a mid-January conference implemented by the UN, the Government of Mongolia and Women for Social Progress. Unique to Mongolia, the six One World Youth Conferences (this one was on population and development) rally youth from across the country. It was the third in the series and challenged youth to examine the international conferences attended by Mongolia and the agreements signed by Mongolia since 1990.

For three days in Ulaanbaatar, One World delegates from all across Mongolia openly discussed, among other issues, gender, urbanization, HIV/AIDS, STDs, sexuality education, adolescent reproductive health, reproductive rights. The candid and refreshing presentation of these issues by representatives from the United Nations, the Government of Mongolia and NGOs, left few details up to the imaginations of the 146 delegates ranging in age from 15-19.

The delegates not only discussed the issues, they made appeals to the leaders of the Mongolian Government, the United Nations, and the community on the final day of the conference at the Community Forum. Once the youth reported their findings and presented their viewpoints, the leaders were asked to respond. "In your own community you must choose what issues are important and tackle them... You have to see not the problems, but the solutions," Ms. Linda Demers, UNFPA Resident Representative remarked. The delegates take the responses very seriously and plan to continue monitoring progress at the final One World Millennium Summit to be held in May 1999.

The delegates exuded a certain confidence and comfort level with the subject matters,

which surprised even the most experienced presenters. During the presentation from the UN Programme on AIDS by Ms. B. Oyun, one delegate inquired about the best place to buy good condoms and how to ensure good quality. Oyun remarked later "Even adults don't usually ask these types of questions. It means that young people are becoming more open to talk about sexuality and they are understanding their responsibility to use condoms to protect themselves."

B. Undraa, a 15-year-old delegate from Ulaanbaatar School Number 20, explained that he applied to Oqe World, "To learn how we [youth] can participate in the decision making process, to share our opinions and to put the issues of population and development on the National agenda." He identified reproductive health as one of the most important issues to teenagers in Mongolia. When asked whether his friends know about issues of safe sex, HIV/AIDS and STDs, he blushed slightly: "There are posters on the boards at school about safe sex and condoms." Sitting up straight he continued in a concerned tone, "There is some information, but I feel it is extremely limited."

In Bulgan at Secondary School Number 2, 15 year-old youth delegate N. Bolotuya doesn't receive any classes on sexual education and reproductive health. "I go to a math school," she explained, "Algebra is the focus, so sexual education is cut out." Sitting in the Margaret Sanger Center, one of the multi-sector programme field trips, with her hair pulled back tightly in a pony tail and her petite stature, Bolotuya looked like a little girl. But her words and insights made it clear that she was taking her role in One World very seriously: "It is through One World that the voices of youth are being heard."

Once returning to their hometowns, both Undraa and Bolotuya plan to share what they've learned at the One World Conference with their peers and families through presentations, informational meetings and presentations in their classes.

To get involved in One world, call 312171 or 322340. Emails can be sent to OneWorld@magicnet.mn. One World radio programme: Every Friday at 3 pm on 107.5 FM.

One World: Population and Development

In January hundreds of Mongolian youth gathered to debate the major issues of population and development. The following is an edited summary of the background information provided to the delegates.

What was in Cairo?

In the Egyptian city of Cairo in 1994, delegates from 180 countries of the world took part in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). One of the biggest events of the decade, the conference recognised the importance of the following issues and appealed to countries and the international community to take action. Themes are:

- Sustainable development, sustainable economic growth, education, particularly ef-

Mongolia-Demographic facts

Population	2,410,000
Population in the Year 2000	2,661,000
Per cent urban	60.9
Age distribution (%)	
0-14	38.0
Youth (15-24)	20.6
Ages 60+	5.5
Median age (years)	20.6
Population density (/sq.km)	2
Annual population growth rate(%)	2.0
Urban	2.9
Rural	0.4
Crude birth rate (/1000)	26.5
Crude death rate (/1000)	6.7
Net migration rate (/1000)	0.0
Total fertility rate (woman)	3.27
Life expectancy at birth (years)	
Males	64.4
Females	67.3

girls;

- gender equity and equality;
- reduction of infant and maternal mortality rates, access to reproductive health and family planning services;
- empowerment of women;
- family's roles, rights, composition and structure;
- population growth and structure;
- reproductive health and rights;
- urbanisation and internal immigration;
- international migration;
- population development through education and technology;
- national action and International co-operation.

What is going on in Mongolia after Cairo 1994?

For implementation of ICPD goals, the Mongolian parliament ratified the following:

- 1996-Population Policy of Mongolia
- 1996-National Programme to Improve Women's status
- 1997-National Reproductive Health Programme
- 1997-National Adolescent Health Programme

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is playing a coordinating role on

Mongolia meeting the ICPD goals

Cairo conference set seven main goals. Mongolia's indicators are matching as follows:

1. Births attended by health professionals to be at least 60%, in Mongolia it is 99%.
2. Contraceptive prevalence rate among population of age 15-44 should be at least 55%, in Mongolia - 53%.
3. At least 60% of population must have access to basic health services, 95% of Mongolian have access.
4. Infant mortality rate per 1000 births-50, in Mongolia it is 60.
5. Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 births-100; But Mongolia has 200.
6. Gross female enrolment at primary level (%) is 75, for Mongolia it is now - 64.1 %.
7. Adult female literacy rate must be 50%, 74.8 % of Mongolian women are literate. (UN resources certify all figures)

population and development activities and the organisation has collaborated with Mongolia since the 1970s. From 1992 to 1996, UNFPA successfully completed The First Country Programme on Mother/Child Health/Family planning in cooperation with the Government of Mongolia. The Second Country Programme was approved by the Government and UNFPA for a period of five years from 1997-2001. It is being developed and elaborated in the form of two sub-programmes covering the themes of Reproductive health and Population Development strategies. The sub-programmes are implementing within special projects. ICPD goals in respect of infant mortality, maternal mortality have been reached to the positive changes but abortion and status of sexually transmitted diseases, reproductive tract inflammatory diseases are major issues to be considered.

Information revolution

to mayors or governors). Another problem is to make them self-sufficient." Project staff are giving these problems attention.

"From the very beginning, primary school students should be aware of global technology and how it can help development." The Soros foundation is cooperating with the project, aiming to connect secondary schools using the latest in satellite technology.

The project plans to have an ICT Summit in 1999 and will hold technology fairs for youth in the Spring.

An ICT Blue Print for Mongolia has been developed and will be published soon.

"These are just the seeds" says Yamanaka, hoping the harvest will be reaped in the first half of the next millennium.

This report outlines a strategy for Y2K in Mongolia. It is available from the UN Info Shop.

12.51.99

Tackling
Y2K in
Mongolia

www.un.org/undp

Should Mongolia pursue a high birthrate policy?

By A. Delgermaa, BSkyB Reporter

Does the development of a country depend on the size of its population? This question is being hotly debated by Mongolian Parliamentarians, with the population now exceeding 2.4 million. According to the UN Population Fund's (UNFPA) figure, the country is on track to reach 2.6 million by the early 2000s. BSkyB asked Mongolians on the street what they think.

The answers ranged from the relationship between development and population, to how many children are appropriate for Mongolian families, to the rapid movement of the population from the countryside to cities, particularly Ulaanbaatar.

U. Baasandorj, late twenties, works for a construction company.

"Mongolia has the possibility to develop with its current population. The problem is psychological. We are just waiting for others to help us like under socialism.

Of course having more people is good for development. Reduced birth rates have to do with lower family incomes. Generally,



Mongolians like to have as many children as possible.

The move to the cities is nothing wrong. One should live where he/she wants to. The people who can survive and live are left in the countryside."

Olzii, early twenties, student of Mongolian National University.

"With the current situation of Mongolia's economy, two to three children is okay. Maybe in five to ten years it would be good for the population to expand. By then the economy might be stable. Moving to the cities is not wrong; people are looking for better comfort."

D. Azzaya, at her late thirties, lecturer at MNU, Department of Meteorology.

"For Mongolia it is good to have more population. Industrialisation is restricted by the small work force. Other factors like mineral resource, raw materials etc. are all available in the country. Of course the number of people must



must fit the territory. High populations like India and China adversely affects the environment.

Because of lack of industrialisation in rural areas, residents move to more centralised places to improve their life. Right now only livestock breeding is a secure job. More industry is needed in the countryside."

Ts. Buyanjargal, mid-twenties, cook and student of Institute of Economy.

"We need a statistical study on population: how much it must be in relation to territory. Right now social benefits and the economy aren't good. The government and the Health and Social Welfare Ministry should concentrate on guaranteeing health security. Different development centres must be formed and more jobs created."

B. Olzijargal, early twenties, student of the School of Foreign Service.

"I agree that Mongolia has a too small population. I think at a minimum it should be more than 10 million. Pregnancy should be encouraged by the state. I think mining industry is the most suitable industry in Mongolia to develop."

Munkhtsetseg, early thirties, lecturer in a private language institute.

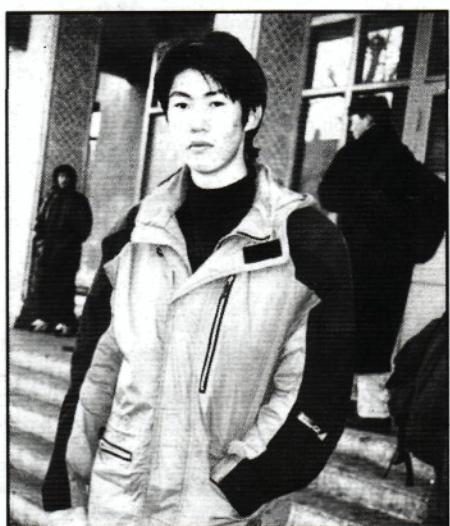
"The number of people doesn't matter. Human capacity and education is important. Mongolia's independence is at stake: the population must be pure Mongol blood. I am afraid that

may be in a hundred years there would be a very few Mongol people, mostly half Mongol people would stay here. Hybrids have divided hearts. After a hundred years what would happen to the country?

It is very strange that the rich have few children, since they still can afford to bring up more children. But the poor who can not even keep themselves have many children. The poor's children are ill, need more social care, and go into the streets etc. It burdens the weak economy of Mongolia. Instead government should have a special policy to control the birth. There should be detailed studies into whether the family can afford more children."

R. Khishigbuyan, student at MNU.

"I want the population to grow as fast as possible in the coming ten years. Then Mongolia would have enough working force. The population growth is more in countryside



than in cities. We should not just concentrate on developing the centralised places. Both urban and rural areas should have equal development. Government must have a special policy on infrastructure and on rural villages."

T. Purevdorj, at his forties, lecturer.

"I wish it to be at least five million, if possible ten million. More development centres should be formed. If the population is more regional development would be easier."

A. Tsoodol, late teens, student at MTU.

"Population does not have a direct influence to development. I think four to five children is the proper number. There should be a special government policy to control movement. I think different development centres should be established. Last year State Ikh Hural were talking about moving the capital to Khar Khorin, the ancient capital of Mongolia. It is just a dream. Instead it can be another development centre."

Pop music helps fuel Mongolia's market economy

Interview by Oyuntungalag, UNDP Communications Officer

In the last nine years the new freedoms in Mongolia have also been reflected in the country's popular culture. A thriving pop and rock scene has emerged over the last four years, with a few artists showing the potential to go beyond Mongolia. The energy of these musicians and singers has not gone unnoticed by the burgeoning advertising market. Pop bands are promoting many things, from face creams to beer. But while these artists and their promoters grab headlines in the gossip pages, there has been little serious writing on the business of popular music.

As part of a trilogy of books exploring emerging development issues, UNDP is funding the book "Mongolian Rock-Pop by its Own Voice". American musicologist Peter Marsh (Indiana University) spent half a year researching the book, and has been studying both modern and ancient Mongolian music. We chatted with him via-e-mail on the book and its interest to youth.

Peter, how did you start writing a book on Mongolian rock and pop culture? Even local writers rarely write on that topic?

I was approached by UNDP to contribute, along with Mongolian journalists, to a series of publications that deal with development issues in Mongolia. Given rock and pop's growing social and economic importance in Mongolian society, we thought our book would provide important ideas about the direction and nature of the nation's development.

What kind of research have you done?

I am a music researcher, meaning I study all forms of musical expression — including music, song and dance — wherever it occurs. I have spent much of the past three years researching Mongolian traditional music and song, but turned to Mongolian pop-rock in the spring of 1998, when I became particularly interested in the growing importance of pop-rock in Mongolian society. Now I am writing my dissertation about the history and development of the horse-head fiddle, and will pay special attention to its use in late twentieth century pop-rock.

What is the strategy you are writing this book with?

Our strategy is to create a book that is both fun to read and filled with interesting ideas. We wanted it to appeal to a wide range of people, from the youth to older people, as well as those interested in issues of development. Another strategy we took was to allow the people involved in pop-rock to speak for themselves, as much as possible. The book is less my own work than a bringing together of ideas and quotes of many people, from rock stars to government officials to people on the street.

Whom of mongolian rock poppers did you meet and what is your impression?

I tried to meet as many Mongolian pop-rock musicians as I could. I wanted to meet musicians and singers in a variety of pop-rock genres, from heavy metal and hard rock, rap and grunge to soft rock and pop. I spent time with members of the groups Haranga, Hurd, Kamerton, Suns, Nomin Talst, and with the singers D. Jargalsaikhan and Misheelt, and with those closely involved with them all, including On'n'Off Production's Ononbat, Khan Brau's G. Gankhuu and the famous pop-rock composer/arranger Purevdorj. Of course, I wanted to meet with more people, but our goal with this project was only to get a sense of the trends in Mongolian pop-rock, which I think we accomplished. More could certainly be written about Mongolian pop-rock, and I hope our work is only the beginning of more studies about it. My impression about Mongolian pop-rock is that it is a lively, diverse and at times innovative Mongolian art form that closely reflects many of the hopes, fears and aspirations of its primary audience, Mongolian youth.

Speaking personally, I find much of it to be very enjoyable, especially the pop-rock that keeps one foot in older musical traditions.



In the third part of your book you included the opinions and thoughts you have on the ways that Mongolians come out in the international music market. What will be your main advice to rock-pop musicians here?

Firstly, I think the musicians from whom I asked this question are correct when they say that Mongolian bands need to have contacts. As it is everywhere, especially in the States, becoming a star is one part talent and three parts contacts. Bands have got to get the attention of those who can make their music popular. Secondly, they shouldn't hope to compete head-on with American or European pop-rock groups, unless, as D. Jargalsaikhan says, they are willing to learn how to speak and think like an American or European. If a band wants to be the next Backstreet Boys, they're going to have to compete with hundreds of bands in America and Europe trying to do the same thing. Thirdly, I agree with several musicians and the pop-rock arranger Purevdorj that Mongolian bands have a unique opportunity to make it big in the global pop-rock scene by creating a form of folk-pop, or pop music that draws from its traditional Mongolian musical roots. This is why Khurd's song "Bakharakhal" or Saraa's song "Goolingoo" continue to be so popular with foreign audiences. The German group Enigma's recording "The Cross of Changes," which made use of a Mongolian long song, is also a good example of this. I think the folk-pop road is a way for Mongolian artists to get into the global pop-rock scene, and if they don't take this road, other, foreign artists, like Enigma, will take the road instead.

The book will be available in February from the UN Information Shop. It is hoped the book will make a modest contribution to the further study of popular culture in Mongolia and its implications for business development.

A new survey of Mongolia's fight to stop violence against women

Violence is the topic of discussion more and more these days. Many newspapers capitalize on this public interest, with "Disgusting Crimes" newspaper being one of the worst in this genre, and the police force's "Detective" the best. While organisations are paying greater attention to this issue, official data to gauge the scale or seriousness of violence in Mongolia is still lacking.

The United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has appointed a national consultant for Mongolia to publicize the activities of NGOs and Government agencies working to reduce violence. Mrs. Baljinnyam, head of the Mongolian Association of International Ladies, was appointed as the consultant. Her research has listed 16 effective activities on fighting violence. The list shows names of NGOs and their activities and researchers and organisations working in this area.

According to the report, the most innovative and successful practices are:

- Shelter House for Victims of Violence (NCAV)
- Transition House in Tolgoit and Amgalan
- Publication against Violence "Khelkhee"
- Training Programme for male perpetrators (police officers and lawyers counsel male perpetrators in and out of the prison)
- Counselling Services for victims and their children (Mongolian Child Rights Centre, NCAV, Criminal Police Division for Prevention of Juvenile Crimes)
- Law reform (NCAV & MWLA prepared a draft law against domestic violence)

- 24 hour Hotline Service for Women Victims and support Groups
- Data Collection on violence against women

NGOs and Government organisations include the National Centre Against Violence, Mongolian Child Rights Centre, National CEDAW Monitoring Network, Mongolian Women Lawyers Association, the Criminal Police Division for prevention of Juvenile

1993 The Strategic Project on Women's Income Generation in collaboration with the Mongolian Women's Federation. In the last five years co-operation between UNIFEM and Mongolia slowed down. Now UNIFEM is placing Senior Advisors in 10 countries across the world to support the UN Resident Coordinator system on Gender issues and to facilitate the effective implementation of the Beijing Plan of Action.

UN Secretary-General's report to the 50th Session of the General Assembly called on UNIFEM to play a key role in supporting the implementation of the platform, particularly through the Resident Coordinator's System.

Beijing-based Dr. Lanyan Chen covers both China and Mongolia as a Gender Advisor.

Born and raised in Beijing, she holds a Masters degree in Communications and a Ph.D in sociology. Trained in political economy, development studies and industrial organization, she previously taught in gender and international development at the University of Victoria in Canada. Her recent field work in China includes work on women's cooperatives, women in poverty and strategies to address the needs of women workers who have been laid off during the process of industrial restructuring. Appointed as the UNIFEM Gender Advisor to the United Nations Resident Coordinators in China, Mongolia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, she will assist the UN System to mainstream a gender approach and the needs of women in programming and projects.

She will also provide technical support to UNIFEM projects and activities in these countries.



Crime, and the Women's Information and Resource Centre.

These organisations will be included in UNIFEM's Regional Report. UNIFEM is organising The Global campaign on the Elimination of Violence Against Women with the motto "A Life Free of Violence: It's our Right".

UNIFEM successfully implemented in



A new kit is available for anyone interested in tackling the major environmental issues affecting Mongolia. Produced by UNDP's Environmental Public Awareness Programme, the kit contains the Mongolian Green Book and three books on activities. The kits are available from EPAP or from the UN Info Shop.

The Role of the National Poverty Alleviation Programme In Nation Building

By Minerva Custodio-Coronacion
UN Volunteer with PAPO

The National Poverty Alleviation Programme (NPAP), which is the Mongolian Government's response to the increasing poverty brought about by cessation of support from the failed socialist system, is now entering a new phase in its programme implementation. In the initial phase of implementation, most of the basic interventions such as provision of seed capital for self-employment activities, improved access to primary health care and basic education facilities and basic relief services, have been done to help most of the poor people get out of poverty and start on their own. The job, though, does not end in getting them started. The next task is to help them sustain on their own what has been initiated, otherwise, all initial efforts will be rendered useless.

In most progressive countries, development did not come overnight. Neither did solely the government bring about development. It is the strong partnership between the government and the people that brings forth the desired change. The active involvement of the citizenry is one of the vital factors that propel the development process. The people should not just fully depend on the government to do everything for them. They should also take their part in nation building.

Poverty eradication, for example, is not just the government's, the assisting non-government organizations' or the donor agencies' concerns. After the assistance has been given by the different organizations it is now the responsibility of the poor people to take the lead in battling against poverty. After all, it is their own battle.

The sustainability of poverty eradicating measures depends largely on how self-reliant the target beneficiaries will evolve. Development of independent and progressive socio-economic grassroots organizations like the cooperatives also help in hastening the eradication of poverty because such organizations teach the people to pool their

own resources and independently work together for their common good. In some countries, they even start them young as exemplified by the laboratory cooperatives in the Philippines. The positive values are inculcated as part of organizational development thereby turning vulnerable people into dynamic citizens, capable of shaping their own future in active partnership with their government.

United Nations System in Mongolia

A Young Population

Dynamic Reforms

Vulnerable



1998 Annual Report

The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Mongolia

United Nations Mongolia Homepage: <http://www.un-mongolia.mn>

Now available in Mongolian and English at the UN Info Shop.

Improving human rights in Mongolia

By A. Delgermaa, BSkyB Reporter

Mongolia has made great strides in improving the level of human rights in the country. There isn't a single political prisoner and Mongolians proudly boast a free media. The democratic changes begun in the early 1990s have brought significant achievements in democracy and freedom. But economic transition is wrecking havoc with some of the gains. Increasing poverty kicks more children into the streets, alcoholism causes more family problems and increases crime, and government shortfalls in social benefits make the old and disabled helpless.

The UN country team (UNICEF, WHO, World Bank, UNFPA, UNHCHR, UNDP) signed with the Government of Mongolia a Memorandum of Understanding on Human

Rights on December 10, 1998. Mongolia has ratified most international covenants on human rights and a 1992 Constitutional Court decision ratified most international principles of human rights for all Mongolians.

The UN Human Rights agency (UNHCHR) is collaborating with the government on founding a NHRC (National Human Rights Committee) that will be responsible for coordinating human rights issues and tackling violations.

"The law of NHRC is slackening at parliament," according to UNHCHR National Coordinator Uyanga. "UNHCHR has been taking actions since 1991 to help the country to work out the law on the National Human Rights Commission." The project also focuses on public awareness of human rights. Human rights education is

considered weak. Even law schools spend little time on the subject.

The other end of the project is aiming to improve the human rights situation in prisons. Appalling prison standards always draw criticism from local media. Prisoners regularly die of starvation, sanitation is poor, tuberculosis rates are high, and physical abuse common. Last year Chief of General Police Ch. Murun took action to improve conditions in Mongolia's worst prison, Gants Hudag. Prisoners on remand were crowded 18 to a room built for just four.

"We want to train people who are able to conduct training in the regions," continues Uyanga. "But we are still debating on who to choose, with one option being prison chiefs." She agrees improving prison conditions will take a long time.

New HIV/AIDS campaign led by NGOs

Under the slogan "AIDS-less Future Depends on Us", December 1st's World AIDS Day kicked-off in Mongolia under the leadership of non-government and government organisations. UNFPA's fee for service clinic Marie Stopes reproductive health clinic discounted its services while the Mongolian Youth Federation organised anti-AIDS promotion activities at 19 crowded places, including "Tsaiz" and "Harhorin" black markets. The peak of the campaign was the meeting at Ulaanbaatar's Youth Palace where 500 to 600 youth gathered, according to Mr. Demberelsuren, Head of the National Center of HIV/AIDS/STDs. We asked different organisations on thoughts of the past and future of AIDS campaigns.

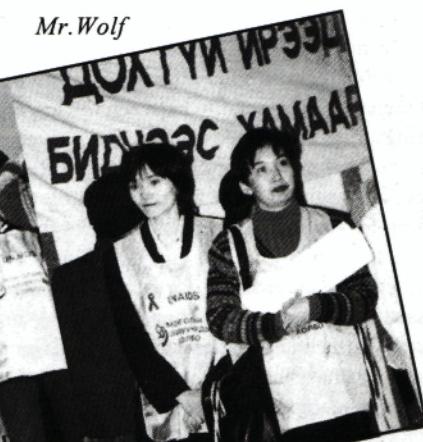
Mr.Demberelsuren (HIV/AIDS/STD'S National Center)

"We celebrate World AIDS day as the day when we unite our voices. On this day government, public and all communities give their opinions/viewpoints on prevention against the pandemic. In previous years, AIDS prevention was discussed by a small group of professionals. This year the activity reached quite a large audience. Many organisations were encouraged and supported to initiate their own activities, and with their help we have reached new target groups. It's not understood any more as one-day campaign and anti-AIDS promotion is continued throughout the year. For 1998

we aimed to give our target group people as much information as possible on HIV prevention. Because they are not accepted by society as being normal, we organise activities out of the public view. World AIDS Day is a good opportunity for us to have discussion with our target group on AIDS and other related issues. We did meetings with good local and foreign counsellors during AIDS campaign. We wanted to do a TV and Radio spot. But it is still not being aired as Mongolian TV and Radio are not giving their approval to

know I'm happy and think they are very useful - I will definitely share with my friends. To be honest the music is too loud and I can't hear what people are saying. I know AIDS is not curable and here in the country there are some people who already have the disease. I think more people should know about AIDS.

Mr. Wolf



Wagner

and Ms.Tuya (GTZ project on reproductive health)

air the programmes. 1998 World AIDS campaign was organised in different level to compare with previous years experiences because many NGOs and development agencies were involved. What are we seeing as our future is to support gay people to establish their own NGO. They want it but it's also hard for them to face the increasing pressure from society.

I know AIDS is not curable and here in Mongolia there are some people who already have the disease. I think more people should know about AIDS.

Ariuntuya, 18 year old student (at the Youth palace activity)

We are excited to be here. I would like to know more about AIDS prevention and stuff like that. Although I could not read it

It is important to have initiatives on AIDS prevention all year round. If we only fight against AIDS during World AIDS Day, it is not effective. We were one of the lead organisations of this year's campaign. We learnt many things. From next year the campaign needs to be targeting aimags, not just city people. Also we were somehow disappointed to see some untrue, we would say, messages from very nice performances by students. It's our fault, and the fault of people who are doing the promotion - not coordinating messages. It can only lead to confusion. For example, people fear HIV rather knowing the right methods of prevention. Instead of making young people to know how to avoid unwanted pregnancy they are blaming the ones who have made mistakes.

World AIDS Day, organisations

started planning and discussions one month before the 1st of December. We learned that coordinating many different organisations is not an easy task. We are now supporting more training and research work and we are planning to have a Conference on AIDS research for the 1999 World AIDS Day. We still can not update the information on health status of the two HIV positive Mongolians.

Mr.Urmasan ("TUS DEM" NGO)

Our NGO was established in 1996 with the purpose of giving support and help to gay people. From then we implemented two projects with funding from UNDP and WHO. As gay people are a vulnerable group to HIV,

More super-insulated houses for 1999

UNDP "PEESS" straw buildings built in 1997-98

1. Health clinic in Biocombinat village of Ulaanbaatar 0 December 97'
2. Women Development Center In Amgalan of Ulaanbaatar July 98'
3. Health clinic Bagahangai District, Ulaanbaatar September 98'
4. School dormitory in Dashinchilen soum, Bulgan aimag October 98'
5. Cultural center in Tsagaan-Uur soum, Huvsgul aimag October 98'
6. Health clinic in Dulaankhaan village of Shaamag soum, Selenge aimag October 98'
7. Kindergarten in Jargalant soum, Tuv aimag January 99'
8. Kindergarten in Chingeltei district, Ulaanbaatar. Not transferred yet to the Government

fear the flammability of the material);
Need more ties and cooperation with professional agencies.

PEESS project will be continued in 1999 with funding of \$1.8 million from the Government of Norway, and pipeline funding of \$1 million from UNDP/GEF and \$740,000 from the Dutch government.

For the project team, the reputation of the technology took a beating in 1998, with several highly publicised fires. Sub-standard construction techniques were to blame in many of the cases.

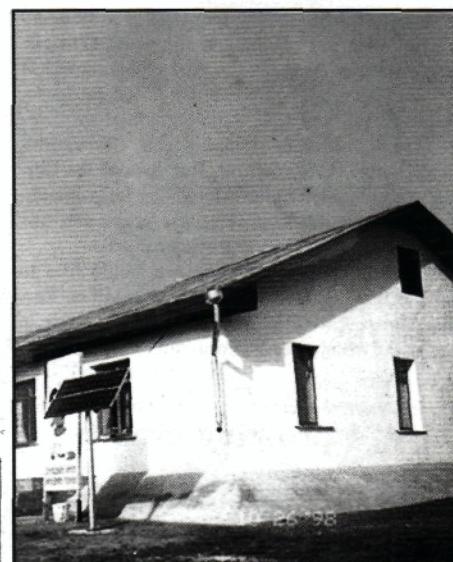


Photo by Tsend

Dutch chip in for youth advice hotline

The Dutch embassy in Beijing has come to the aid of a popular youth reproductive health advice hotline. Named simply the "Trust Phone", the hotline was established in April of last year and has received calls from more than 3,000 teens. Initiated by some doctors and gynaecologists, the Adolescent Futures Center (an NGO) also offers, along with counselling services, a clinic.

Dr. Ayush, a well-known pediatric-gynaecologist and teacher at the Medical university, jointly runs the NGO with two young doctors, Enkhee and Bayarmaa. Typical calls range from fashion and fitness to pregnancy and STDs. The clinic has treated more than 200 mostly teenage girls.

"I heard about the trust phone from my friend," says 17-year-old Enhmaa, who was worried she had an STD. "I was embarrassed to come but my friend took me here. Here I got a lot of support and I am so glad that I talked about my hidden problem with an adult. Now I feel very relieved and I think many more teens could come here and get support."

The centre, which was initially established with funds from the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, the UB City Mayor's Office and the City Health Department, was in urgent need of a new

sponsor. The Dutch Embassy in China, which also has responsibility for Mongolia, chipped in with a new year's present.

"With the US \$7,800 of funding we will equip the office, purchase compatible equipment and support future training," continues a happy Dr. Ayush. She stresses the importance of such counselling services. With many of their customers teenagers, students, children of vulnerable groups, and also young families, the fact is 90 per cent of them could not pay for the service.

"Adolescent reproductive health counselling and the clinical service is something to which we should give first priority. But

not many people are working in this field right now, and it seems to be also a hard sector to sustain at this time of economic difficulties. But in future if my dream comes true, I would like to see our NGO become a complex organisation with a fashion and fitness centre, a reproductive health training centre and medical service provision. Fitness seems to be a major need of youth." Dr. Ayush and the staff of the centre pass on their thanks to the Dutch Embassy in China and also to Mr. Jerry van Mourik, UN Support Officer to the Resident Coordinator, for helping them to fulfil their wishes.



"People are afraid of fire," says Mr. Tsend, who works for UNDP's PEESS project. The technology has been embraced by many people who are looking for innovative ways to cut down on heating costs. Many organisations including UNDP, the Government of Mongolia and ADRA are funding initiatives for strawbale buildings. While UNDP projects adhere to the highest standards available, many independent contractors don't follow the best practices when it comes to building with straw bales.

"Although only one UNDP project building burned down," continues Tsend. "at the eve of the second stage of the programme we are thinking carefully on how to avoid fire in the future. The reputation and effectiveness of the project is at stake. Some builders don't segregate the chimney from the strawbale part of the roof. And when the chimney is heated, sparks from the metal chimney will ignite straw resulting in a fire."

The project is in its fourth year and the project is starting its second phase from April of 1999.

Letters

BSkyB receives many letters from our dedicated readers. All of them are appreciated but we only have space to print a few. The following is a selection sent to BSkyB and to our UN Homepage.

Dear "Blue Sky" team,

The Women's Information and Research Center (WIRC) staff members and volunteers have been using your bulletin for information dissemination and advocacy purposes as a member of the Mongolian Resource Center's Network. Information and articles contained in English version of the bulletin were of great interest and useful.

However, the Mongolian version always had grammatical and stylistic problems. The issue #9 of the "Blue Sky" bulletin is the worst example. Even, we tried very hard to find one good article in this issue, unfortunately we failed to do so. Particularly, "the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Understanding Poverty, UN Field Trip, Just Around the Corner" and etc were full of Mongolian language basic grammar mistakes, stylistic problems, bad translation and misinterpretations.

Taking this opportunity, we would like to advise you to look into the "Mongolian Version" more carefully and accurately in order to make the articles and information understand-

able and logical.

If you find this job difficult we can offer our assistance.

We wish you success and prosperity. Group of your faithful readers. *Editor's note: We are taking measures to correct this problem.*

Comments from the UN Mongolia website

"Hey guys. I really like what you do on this magazine. I read a couple of articles that are very well written and they reminded me of home. I would like to say "keep up the good work".
Timur Tsend, USA.

"I am a huge fan of Mongolian culture and history. I really love your website. I would like to find Mongolian friends or email penpals".
Sonja Albrecht, USA, salbrecht96@hotmail.com

"I visited your site because I'm rather interested in exotic countries and Mongolia is certainly one from my point of a view. What I'd like the most is to get a contact with Mongolian people either by e-mail or penpalling. Can you please help me

with that? There are not that many Mongolian people in the net",
Nina Kemppainen, Finland, ninakemppainen@hotmail.com

"I meet your organisation on the net. You have done a fantastic job. I hope you will continue (with your staff) to continue this. At the moment I am looking around for information on agriculture and coming financial tenders in this area. Just solid down to earth stuff. It takes a lot of time to dig myself through all the topics which are interesting for western visitors. Why am I so interested in this? There are serious problems in food, food supply and food marketing in Mongolia. At the moment I am trying to link some big Dutch companies to programmes in Mongolia." *Jan Haeije de Jong, the Netherlands, proterra@tref.nl.*

"I am interested in visiting Mongolia. I was also interested in foreign ownership of property and businesses, and investing in current businesses. If you could direct me to the correct agencies I would appreciate it." *J Flack, USA, flacogordo@hotmail.com*



List of new publications and reports

In English

1. The Asian financial crisis: The Challenges for Social Policy, ILO, Geneva, 1998
2. Mongolia Country report. The Economist Intelligence Unit, London, 4th quarter 1998
3. Paying their fair share? Donor countries and international population assistance Population Action International, Washington D.C., 1998
4. Pre-feasibility study of the Processing of Crop Products in Khovd aimag, Mongolia FAO/RAP-Bangkok, 1998
5. Renewable energy for Mongolia. Proposal made to UNDP-Mongolia, The AMIDA GROUP, Inc., 1997
6. Strengthening Capacities for Growth through Trade and Investment in Asia and Pacific. Report of the Programme Evaluation Mission, 1998
7. Mongolia: Rapid Economic assessment - a child focused perspective Save the Children Fund- UK Mongolia, 1998

In Mongolian:

1. Монголын эдийн засгийн нөхцөл байдалд хүүхдийн асуудлын байр сууринаас хийсэн товч судалгаа, Англмийн Хүүхдийг ивээх сангийн Монгол дахь хөтөлбөр, 1998
2. НҮБ-ын тухай Арван жилийн сургуулийн гарын авлага, Нэг Ертөнц төслийн хүрээнд НДЭХ-өөс эрхлэн гаргав, 1999
3. Хүүхдийг хөгжүүлэх талаар 2000 он хүртэл баримтлах үндэсний хөтөлбөр Нэг Ертөнц төслийн хүрээнд НДЭХ-өөс эрхлэн гаргав, 1999
4. Хүн ам ба тогтвортрой хөгжил эрчимт сургалтын гарын авлага МУИС-ийн Хүн Ам Зүйн Сургалтын Төв, Улаанбаатар, 1998

Upcoming events

Resident Coordinator's Office

One World UN Conference Series

- April 3 1999, Social Development
- April 22 1999, Women
- May 14-17 1999, National Summit

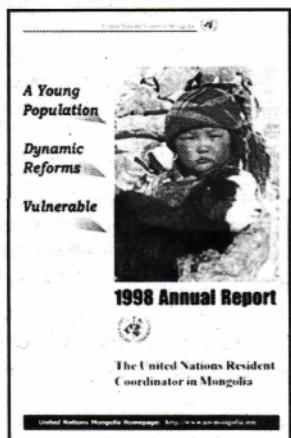
Info Tech Town Hall Meeting

2nd week of march (broadcast on Mongol TV after)

Info Tech Enterprise Forum

April-May

The UN Annual Report is hot off the presses. Copies are available in English and Mongolian. For your personal copy just contact Mr. Jerry van Mourik, UN Support Officer to the Resident Coordinator



Arrivals and Departures

Mr. Osman Shommad, a UNV from Sudan, is working as a Technical Adviser for the Capacity Building for Poverty Alleviation Project; Dr. Arun Kumar Mallik, a UNV from India, is working as a Team Leader and Health Educator; UNV Nikolay Nikolaev is working as an English teacher; UNV Tina Voolmann will work with the UNAIDS project as an adviser. The longest serving UNV Robert Ferguson (EPAP) left at the end of Feb; UNV Kate Johnson returned to Canada.

We accept letters! All letters should be no more than 200 words in length. News briefs should be a maximum of 100 words each. Field reports should not exceed 350 words. The Blue Sky Bulletin is a publication of the United Nations Development Programme in Mongolia. The newsletter is published every month. The next deadline for submissions is March 20.

Subscriptions to the newsletter are free! We can send the newsletter to you electronically, via e-mail, or by post. Just send us your address and how you would like to receive the newsletter and we will rush it out straight away.

All submissions must be sent to the Communications Office, UNDP, 7

Erkhuu St., Ulaanbaatar,

PO Box 49/207.

Telephone: (976-1) 325911.

Fax: (976-1) 326221.

E-mail: david.south@undp.org

Please check out the United

Nations Homepage at <http://www.un-mongolia.mn>